

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-10 are in the application.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. '103 as being unpatentable over Bertels and over Bertels in view of Lorcher. The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertels in view of Persson , and over Bertels in view of Lorcher and Persson , claim 5 as being unpatentable over Bertels in view of Kunz et al. and over Bertels in view of Lorcher and Kunz et al., and claim 7 and as being unpatentable over Bertels in view of Persson and Frings et al . and over Bertels in view of Lorcher, Persson and Frings et al. Claim 10 was rejected as being unpatentable over Bertels in view of Frings et al. and over Bertels in view of Lorcher and Frings et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

First the independent claims are claims 8 and 10. Both claims require the following steps: "Joining the sheets in a butt joint" As in claim 8 or Joining the sheet blanks in a butt-joint" as required by claim 10.

The Examiner states that column 1 lines 10-20 of Bertels discloses this feature. However, this feature is not at all disclosed in Bertels. For example, Bertels discloses light metal and steel in FIG. 6 where the two sheets are not even touching each other.

FIG. 7 discloses this feature as well. The only possible butt joint formation is found in FIGS. 1 and 8.

It is noted that the definition for a butt joint is as follows:

Butt joint. A joint formed by two abutting surfaces placed squarely together.
See American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language Fourth Edition,
Copyright 2009.

As follows claims 8 and 10 have also been amended to emphasize that these two sheets are positioned so that they are touching each other or are in contact with each other. In this case, if the two sheets are not touching each other, then this type of connection would not be a “butt joint” as defined above and as claimed in claims 8 and 10. However, regarding these connections, there is no support for a weld connection or for applying a filler such that a length of the soldering connection extending from the butt joint and along the iron and titanium sheet which is as at least three times the thickness of the iron or titanium sheet.

The Examiner relies on the disclosure of FIGS. 6 and 7 which is shown below: As stated above, it is clearly shown that there is no butt joint formed between the two sheets because these two sheets are clearly not positioned abutting each other. Rather, there is a clearly defined spacing between the two sheets as defined by distance “a”.

This distance “a” is described as 2 mm (see column 4 line 42). Therefore, there is no possibility for this connection to include a butt joint between the sheets.

Regarding this disclosure of Bertels , the Examiner states that the length of the soldering connection is about 4mm, which is about 2 times the thickness of the iron/steel sheet.

Applicant submits that this calculation is incorrect. As the Examiner states, the steel plate 31 is 2mm thick. The total width b of the welding seam is 8mm. However, the distance a between the light metal plate 32 and the steel plate 31 is also 2mm, as the plates do not butt up against each other. This clearly means that the aggregate covering of the light metal plate 32, as well as the steel plate 31, by the welding seam, is: $b - a = 8 - 2 = 6\text{mm}$.

Thus, 6mm is available for the welding seam. Since symmetrical conditions are assumed (and are shown in the drawings), only $6 / 2 = 3\text{mm}$ remains for the covering of steel plate 32. Since the steel plate 32 is 2mm thick, the welding seam that covers the steel plate is only 1.5 times the thickness of the steel plate. This is only half of the covering required in claim 8 of the present application. A measurement 100% larger than the one shown in Bertels cannot be considered obvious over Bertels . Claim 10 also claims the same features as claim 8, so claim 10 is also patentable over Bertels . None of the other drawings or secondary references disclose this width ratio either.

Since there are no ratios presented for any of the other disclosures, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as claimed in claims 8, and 10 and also in dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 7, and 9 is patentable.

Accordingly, applicants submit that independent claims 8 and 10, as well as the dependent claims, are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 11, 2010.

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